Dear Director General

2019-20 Pre-budget scrutiny

Thank you for providing oral evidence to the Health and Sport Committee at our meeting on the 5 June 2018 as part of our 2019-20 Pre-budget scrutiny. I am writing to request further information on several issues raised during the evidence session to inform the Committee’s report on pre-budget scrutiny.

One area discussed during your evidence session was NHS pay. Since the 5 June the Scottish Government has announced proposals for NHS employees currently earning up to £80,000 to receive a minimum cumulative uplift of 9% over the next three years, and those earning £80,000 and over to receive a flat rate increase of £1,600 a year.

- What are the estimated additional costs of the proposed pay deal relative to the proposals set out in the 2018-19 Draft Budget?
- How will additional costs for the pay deal over and above any anticipated Barnett consequentials be met?
Following your appearance at the Committee your letter to me on the 14 June provided further information on a range of issues raised during your evidence session, this included Alcohol and Drug Partnership funding. Annexed to your letter was a letter dated 31 May 2018 from Daniel Kleinberg, Deputy Director, Health Improvement Division at the Scottish Government. The letter issued to NHS Chief Executives, Chief Officers of Integration Joint Boards and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Chairs detailed the funding to support the delivery of agreed service levels for Alcohol and Drug Partnership’s work within NHS board areas for 2018-19. The letter, however, did not provide detail of the allocation transferred to each NHS board.

- Are you able to provide the allocation transferred to each individual NHS board baseline for onward delegation to IAs to support the delivery of drug and alcohol treatment and support services in their NHS board area in 2018-19?

Mr Kleinberg’s letter refers to the First Minister’s announcement of an increase of £20 million for drug/alcohol services. The letter states that the Scottish Government will be writing to NHS Chief Executives, Chief Officers of Integration Joint Boards and Alcohol and Drug Partnership Chairs shortly about how this money will be invested.

- Has it now been agreed how the £20 million for drug/alcohol services will be invested and if so what further allocations have been made to individual NHS boards for delivery of drug and alcohol treatment and support services?

During the evidence session you discussed the additional investment of £35 million in mental health over the next five years. You offered to provide further information on the steps taken towards appointing 800 additional mental health workers.

- What progress has been made towards delivering this goal?
- How are you determining what type of mental health workers should be appointed to deliver the best outcome for patients?

On the 29 June a new CAMHS Taskforce was announced by the Scottish Government to look at reshaping and improving CAMHS supported by £5 million of investment.

- Is the £5 million for the new CAMHS Taskforce being funded from the £35 million additional resources already allocated to mental health over the next five years or is this new funding?

Integration Authorities provided their first Financial Monitoring Overview Report in March 2018. The next report is expected by the end of July. We look forward to receipt of this report as we understand it will provide a draft finalised outturn position for 2017-18. It would be helpful if you could confirm whether these quarterly reports will then revert to the original timescale and be provided to the Committee by the end of September 2018, December 2018 and March 2019.

You highlighted during your evidence session that the Cabinet Secretary was best placed to respond to questions we had regarding the publication date of the Medium Term Health and Social Care Financial Framework and the application of Barnett
consequentials to the health budget. We have written to her today to request answers to our questions on these issues.

The Committee will finalise its pre-budget report in the early autumn. A response to this letter by 22 August would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener